

translated horizontally through the air, thereby generating lift.

It should be noted that it is the translational horizontal motion that generates the preponderance of the lift in this case, as opposed to the simple blade rotation, which generates the lift in a conventional helicopter. It follows that, to perform the necessary translational push, the craft to which the assembly is attached requires an independent means of forward propulsion (such as a propeller or jet engine). In this case, the blade assembly would generally not be used to pull the helicopter through the air (in the same manner as do conventional helicopter blade assemblies). --

15 IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1 as follows.

1. (amended). A helicopter blade assembly for permitting rapid forward flight in a helicopter having separate means for providing a forward impetus, comprising:
substantially vertical mast; and
a set of rotatable blades which sweep out the shape of a virtual disk having the properties of a lifting body when they are rapidly rotated by the mast, so that as the virtual disk is pushed translationally through the air it thereby generates lift.

REMARKS

The telephone interview granted by Examiner Verdier on June 7, 2000 is acknowledged with gratitude. The claims have been amended to better indicate the Applicant's invention. The specification has been amended

without the addition of new matter, but to explicate what was stated in the original filing.

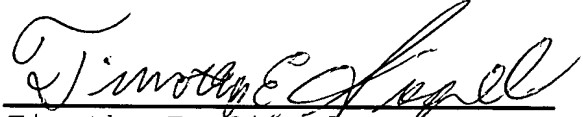
Examiner Verdier's rejection of the drawings is noted. New formal drawings will be submitted after a

5 Notice of Allowance is received.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in a condition for allowance. Reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are sincerely requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being
20 deposited with the United States Postal Service as first
class mail in an envelope addressed to: Box Non-Fee
Amendment, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington,
D.C. 20231, on October 10, 2000.

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Sara Cusack